

we will do the best we can to keep things moving.

If the Senator can give us some idea as to how late the Senate leader wants to go this evening, it would be appreciated.

Mr. McCONNELL. I say to my friend from Nevada, I am sure that later in the day we will be able to provide some further information on that matter.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with the time to be equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask that the time be charged equally against both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The minority whip.

MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRTHDAY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last night my wife and I watched the replaying of the speech of Dr. Martin Luther King on CNN. The speech lasted 17 minutes. No matter how many times I watch the speech, I am so impressed with the message this man delivered. That is why I was stunned today, in getting the Congressional News Briefing, to see what the present President, President Bush, has done to undermine the unity and harmony of our society.

I quote:

Bush Revives House Participation in Confederate Memorial Ceremony. Last Memorial Day, for the second year in a row, Bush's White House sent a floral wreath to the Confederate Memorial. . . . Bush has quietly reinstated a tradition dating back to Woodrow Wilson that his father had halted in 1990. . . . The current Bush White House denies any change in policy. Time adds that one of the

organizations connected to the ceremony is the Sons of Confederate Veterans, whose Chief Aide-de-Camp is Richard T. Hines, a politically active lobbyist from South Carolina. In that State's brutal 2000 Republican primary, Hines reportedly helped finance tens of thousands of letters blasting Bush rival Senator John McCain for failing to support the flying of the Confederate flag over the state capitol.

This repayment of political debt that the President has in South Carolina is certainly something that flies in the face of what America is all about. It certainly flies in the face of what leaders of the administration says they are trying to do.

Yesterday we celebrated a national holiday, the birthday of a great American, Dr. King. This year in particular, with controversy over remarks and votes related to issues of race having affected the Senate itself, it is important that we reflect on the life, legacy, and message of Dr. King and that we assess the Nation's progress in achieving the goals he articulated. Dr. King shared with us his dream for American society, that Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, and other minorities would have equal opportunity to achieve and to contribute.

We are closer to that place in time because of the efforts and accomplishments of Dr. King and others who made sacrifices and confronted enormous obstacles to make life better, not only for African Americans but all Americans.

America has made strides in improving the status of ethnic and racial minorities, but I am concerned that the policies that the current administration is pursuing would set us back.

Dr. King is one of the main reasons that little girls, young ladies, teenagers, and women in college can participate in athletics. Title IX is civil rights legislation and a direct result of the activities of Dr. King. Is Title IX an affirmative action program? Of course it is. Young women should have the opportunity to participate in athletics just as young men have had. Until we passed a Federal law, an affirmative action law, that was not possible. Now, tens of millions of young women participate in athletics. They have opportunities to build their character as young men have had for hundreds of years. Now women can participate in athletics.

I was disappointed we had to work this week because I was looking forward to watching my granddaughter Savannah play basketball this week. She is good. She leads her team in scoring. I have not been able to watch her play. She is 10 years old, and in her first game she scored 12 of the 22 points her team scored. I was looking forward to watching her play. I am told she is really good. In just a couple of years this little girl will be able to participate in high school athletics, which did not happen in my generation. The only athletics my granddaughters could participate in, if they were my age, and even younger than I, would be cheerleading. Now she can be a bas-

ketball player, soccer player, and participate in track events. That is the way it should be.

We have made great strides in improving the status of minorities, as well as women. That is the way it should be. We must continue to move forward to build on the foundation Dr. King helped establish.

But unfortunately the administration is blocking progress by pursuing policies that limit opportunity. One example is this administration's filing a brief in the Supreme Court opposing the ability of the University of Michigan to have a diverse class of students.

The University of Michigan admissions system is not about quotas. It is about improving the educational experience for all students. This takes into account not only race and ethnic background but many other factors. Athletes and others with talents the school finds desirable are given extra points in the admission process. The administration did not oppose Michigan and other university programs where they give bonuses to alumni, where they give bonuses to athletics. No one opposes that. If you are trying to develop and establish a diverse class of students at a university, they oppose it. This is wrong. Diversity is a good thing, and it does not happen automatically but requires progressive policies. The administration is flat-out wrong to oppose this.

The administration is also wrong in continuing to nominate judges whose records reveal a pattern of insensitivity to racial issues. I have encouraged the President, as have many others, to protect the environment. Apparently though, the only recycling he favors is recycling of rejected and flawed judicial nominees.

What about DC statehood? We have young men and women who live in the District of Columbia, who are now in the Persian Gulf getting ready to go to war—people are being called up, being called upon to put their life on the line for their country—but they cannot vote for a Member of Congress, they do not have their own Senators. We should have statehood. If you are part of a sovereign nation—for example, the Pyramid Lake Piute Tribe in Nevada, they can vote for me, against me, but the District of Columbia does not have that opportunity. Residents of the District of Columbia pay taxes, they serve our country, but they do not have representation in Congress by a Member who has a right to vote on a substantive issue. They have a Member of Congress who only can sit in committees. If this administration feels so strongly about affirmative action, about fairness, diversity, let them come forward and support DC statehood.

And consider the quality of education that children receive. Most minority students in America still attend schools that are predominantly minority. On average, they are in large classes, have older books, receive less challenging lessons, and their teachers